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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our letters addressed to the President of the Security Council, the most recent of which was dated 26 April 1997 (S/1997/342), I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 25 May 1997 addressed to you from the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of the Sudan, Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, drawing the attention of the members of the Council to the hostile policies and practices of the Eritrean regime against the Sudan.

I would appreciate it if the text of the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Hamid Ali ELTINAY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 25 May 1997 from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters and the notes from the Sudanese Government concerning the provocations and the repeated military attacks that are being carried out by the Eritrean authorities in Sudanese territory, incidents which the head of the Eritrean regime has recognized in his statements to international information agencies, and in view of the desire of the Sudan to keep you informed of the acts of aggression perpetrated by that regime, I should like to inform you of further developments concerning the overtly hostile policy of Eritrea.

The Sudanese authorities have learned from reliable sources that Eritrean military units, with the support of vehicles, have amassed on the frontier between the two countries, which demonstrates the intention of the Eritrean regime to attack in the near future eastern Sudan, in this case, the area situated between the towns of Kassala and Port Sudan.

The Sudanese Government is firmly convinced that the time chosen by Eritrea in order to launch its imminent attack, which coincides with the signing of the Khartoum peace agreement and the preparations for a meeting to be devoted to peace in the Sudan, proves without the shadow of a doubt that that country has become the main obstacle to the peace process under way in the Sudan. Moreover, Eritrea's growing hostility represents henceforth one of the gravest threats to security and stability in the region and is impeding the implementation of the measures that the Sudan has taken in order to establish peace and stability at the national level and reorient its efforts towards the development, recovery and reconstruction of the country.

The Sudan, which insists that the international community should assume all its responsibilities by guaranteeing peace, security and stability in the region, calls upon all countries and international and regional organizations to intervene speedily in order to prevent the Eritrean forces from launching their attack against the Sudan and to induce Eritrea to abandon its hostile policy, cease intervening, overtly or under various pretexts, in Sudanese internal affairs, and put an end to its acts of provocation and military aggression designed to defeat the efforts being made to establish peace and stability in the Sudan.

The Sudan, which is devoting all its efforts and means to the establishment of peace at the national level, reaffirms its intention to respect the principle of good-neighbourliness and not to intervene in the internal affairs of other States, as well as its right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(Signed) Ali Osman MOHAMED TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs